

Dear Superintendent:

Kentucky's English language learners are a fast-growing segment of our student population. They are held to the same academic standards and expectations as all students. State and federal education laws also recognize that these students have unique language needs that must be addressed so that they can achieve academically and become successful students and members of our communities.

Your district's English language learners are served under an English language instructional program designed to help them acquire speaking, listening, reading and writing skills in English, while they are working towards peer-appropriate academic competencies. Under Title III and Title I of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001, states and local districts are charged with meeting annual measurable achievement objectives (AMAOs) by the number and/or percentage of limited English proficient (LEP) students who:

- Make progress in learning English,
- Attain English language proficiency by the end of the school year, and
- Make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) on required state assessments.

Based on a review of the English language proficiency assessment results you submitted to the state in May of this year, a determination was made as to whether cohort groups of your LEP students

- a. Met cohort **progress** goals for learning English, as evidenced by an increase in the percentage of LEP students in each cohort who progressed at least one proficiency level from the previous year, and
- b. Met cohort **attainment** goals for English language proficiency, as evidenced by the percentage of LEP students in each cohort who attained the proficient level in 2004-2005.

State and district reports and the Interpretive Guide are posted on the KDE website at <http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Instructional+Resources/High+School/Language+Learning/English+Language+Learning/Title+III+Annual+Measurable+Achievement+Objectives.htm> (*not final URL*). Your district report shows the number and percentage of your LEP students in each cohort (based on number of years of language instruction) who made progress by at least one proficiency level, and who scored at the proficient level. The tables also indicate the state targets for each of these cohorts, and whether your district met those targets ("Yes") or not ("No"), or whether the targets did not apply to your district ("Not Applicable or N/A") because the cohort size was less than 10.

Your district has already received notification of the AYP status of its LEP subpopulation under Title I and will not be receiving a separate notification for the same goals under Title III.

Districts who fail to meet AMAOs under Title III for two consecutive years (2003-2004 and 2004-2005) must, by October 31, 2005, modify and re-post their Comprehensive District Improvement Plan to the district website. This re-posting must explicitly include LEP student achievement (language and academic) objectives, strategies and activities. KDE staff will provide technical assistance and review modified plans. Upon KDE approval of the modifications, the updated CDIP must be clearly communicated to the local board of education, district and school leadership, and all school councils. Schools serving ELLs must be required by the district to modify their Comprehensive School Improvement Plan to reflect the changes to the district CDIP by January 31, 2006.

For the 2004-2005 accountability year only, it is recommended but not required that districts notify the parents of their LEP students regarding the English language instructional program's failure to meet Title III AMAOs. The sample parent notification letter attached is available to all Kentucky districts from the TransACT website, [www.transact.com](http://www.transact.com), and is translated into multiple languages.

The Kentucky Department of Education is committed to providing districts and schools with the support they need to accelerate the English language development and to remove barriers to high academic achievement of their LEP students. We are making progress as a state, due to your commitment to an equitable high-quality education for all our learners.

To know more about the Title III AMAOs, we encourage all district Title III coordinators to attend a one-day Title III Directors Meeting at the Kentucky TESOL Annual Fall Conference on September 9, 2005, at the Holiday Inn Hurstbourne in Louisville. To register for this, please e-mail Danna Morrison at [danna.morrison@education.ky.gov](mailto:danna.morrison@education.ky.gov).

If you have any questions regarding the information in this letter, please contact Shelda Hale, Title III Consultant, at 502 564-7056 or [shelda.hale@education.ky.gov](mailto:shelda.hale@education.ky.gov).

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gene Wilhoit, Commissioner